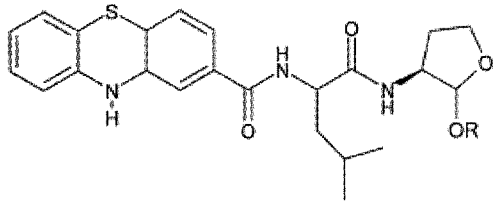
**LISTING OF THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A method of protecting acoustic hair cells comprising administering a heterocyclic derivative of formula



(I)

diastereoisomers of derivative (I), or combinations thereof,

wherein R is a ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, aryl alkyl or -C(O)R' radical;

wherein R' is a ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl~~, aryl~~ or aralkyl radical;

the alkyl or aryl radicals being optionally substituted by one or more identical or different substituents including: ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, hydroxy, ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, halogen or -$NR_1R_2$;

**wherein** $R_1$ and $R_2$ are independently, a hydrogen atom or an ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl radical.

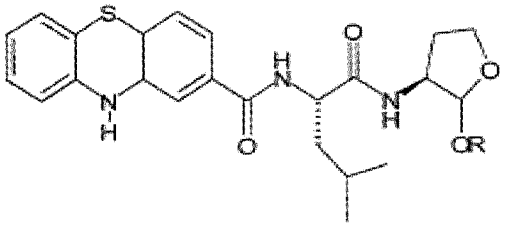
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein R is -C(O)R'.

3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein R' is an alkyl radical.

4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein R is -C(O)-$CH_3$.

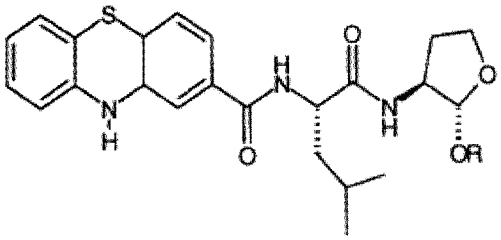
5. (Cancelled).

6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



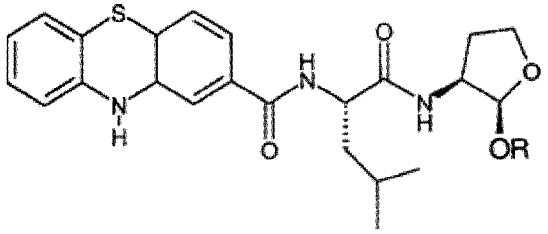
($I_A$)

7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



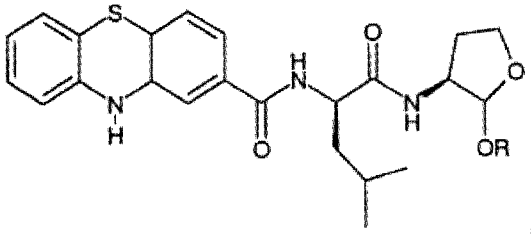
($I_{A1}$)

8. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



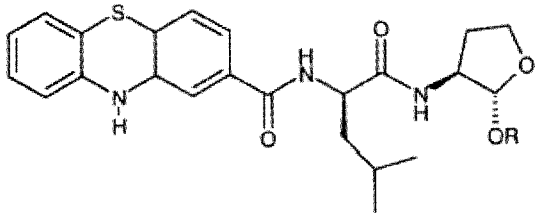
($I_{A2}$)

9. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



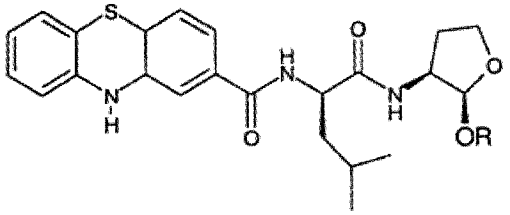
($I_B$)

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



$(I_{B1})$

11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



$(I_{B2})$

12. (Cancelled).

13. (Cancelled).

14. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative is administered following the administration of a medicament, wherein the medicament comprises antibiotics, anti-cancer drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, diuretics, antiulceratives, anticonvulsant agents, or combinations thereof.

15. (Cancelled).

16. (Previously presented) The method of claim 14, wherein the medicament is an antibiotic.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the antibiotic is gentamicin.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said method protects acoustic hair cells following presbycusis.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Cancelled).

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising administering at least one other substance with pharmaceutical activity which is able to prevent and/or treat hearing loss or to prevent and/or treat any pathologies associated with hearing.

23. (Previously presented). The method of claim 22, wherein the other substance with pharmaceutical activity includes: antioxidants, calpain inhibitors, peripheral vasodilitators, agonists or antagonists of the NMDA receptor, peptide inhibitors of c-Jun N-terminal kinase or combinations thereof.

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Cancelled).

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Cancelled).

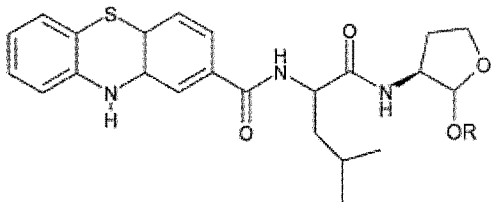
29. (Cancelled).

30. (Cancelled).

31. (Cancelled).

32. (Cancelled).

33. (New) A method of treating hearing loss comprising administering, up to 24 hours following an acoustic traumatism, a heterocyclic derivative of formula



(I)

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diastereoisomers of derivative (I), or combinations thereof,

wherein R is a ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, aryl alkyl or -C(O)R' radical;

wherein R' is a ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl or aralkyl radical;

the alkyl or aryl radicals being optionally substituted by one or more identical or different substituents including: ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkyl, hydroxy, ($C_1$-$C_6$) alkoxy, nitro, cyano, halogen or -$NR_1R_2$;

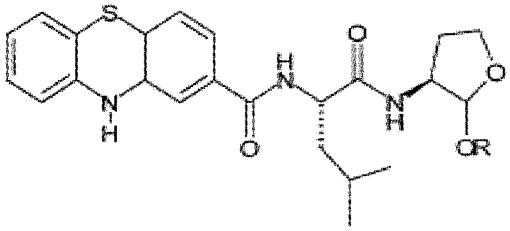
wherein $R_1$ and $R_2$ are independently, a hydrogen atom or an ($C_1$-$C_6$)alkyl radical.

34. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein R is -C(O)R'.

35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein R' is an alkyl radical.

36. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein R is -C(O)-$CH_3$.

37. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



($I_A$)

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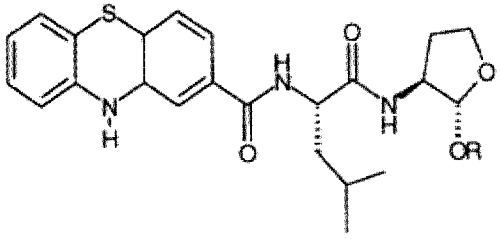
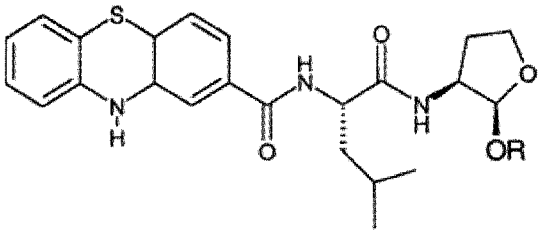
38. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



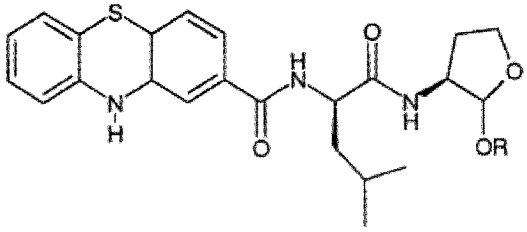
($I_{A1}$)

39. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



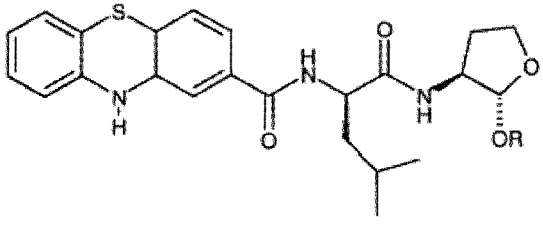
($I_{A2}$)

40. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



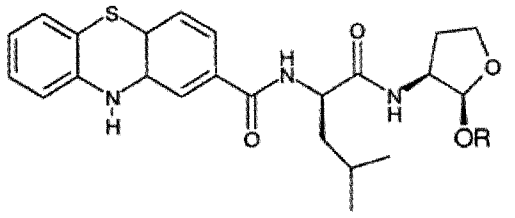
($I_B$)

41. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



($I_{B1}$)

42. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) has the formula



($I_{B2}$)

43. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) is administered 12 hours following an acoustic traumatism.

44. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein the derivative (I) is administered 7 hours following an acoustic traumatism.

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the derivative is administered following the administration of a medicament, wherein the medicament comprises antibiotics, anti-cancer drugs, non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents, diuretics, antiulceratives, anticonvulsant agents, or combinations thereof.

46. (New) The method of claim 46, wherein the antibiotic is gentamicin.

47. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising administering at least one other substance with pharmaceutical activity comprising antioxidants, calpain inhibitors, peripheral vasodilitators, agonists or antagonists of the NMDA receptor, peptide inhibitors of c-Jun N-terminal kinase or combinations thereof.